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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/986,998	11/13/2001	Ryoji Kawamura	05711.0130	6370

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EXAMINER

LUONG, SHIAN TINH NHAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3728

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/986,998

Applicant(s)

KAWAMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Shian T. Luong

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The phrase “ a small article holding pocket formed on a part of a periphery of said small article mounting plate portion of said plug-in body” is inaccurate. The pocket is not formed on the periphery of the plate portion but within at least a part of a periphery of the small article mounting plate portion. The pocket is actually situated below and within elements 23a, 23b. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1,3,7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kessler et al. (US 6,119,864). Kessler discloses a tubular body 17 with arch openings 27 for engaging two flexible prongs 42 on the plug-in body in Figure 1. A hole 30 is formed on the plug-in-body. A holding pocket 41 is formed on the mounting plate portion 41. Similarly, Figures 2A-8B show an alternative embodiment wherein a tubular body 120 with apertures 128 engages the prongs 124,126 of the plug-in-body.

Applicant's comment with regard to Kessler has been considered. However, the phrase does not overcome the prior art rejection. The phrase is so broad that any edge portion of the

small article mounting plate portion can be a part of a holding pocket. For instance, a user can simply place a small article that fits the circumstance of the compartment formed by elements 112, 114, 116 or 140, 142, 144, 146 and their respective adjacent areas. The compartment is within the periphery of the article mounting plate portion. The reference specifically discusses various shapes for the compartment, even the largest area possible to accommodate the intended article. Applicant argues that the open receiving area is bordered by the upwardly protruding walls of the drawer. But applicant's small article holding pocket is also bordered by the periphery wall as shown in Figures 1, 5, 8, 9. Even if the periphery of the small article mounting plate portion does not include the wall portion but only its outer perimeter, the outer perimeters of the compartment or pocket in Kessler et al. is still formed on a part of a periphery as claimed.

4. Claims 1, 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Danielson et al. (US 6,341,710). Danielson et al. discloses a tubular body 12 with arch openings 114 for engaging two flexible prongs 48, 60, 86, 88 on the plug-in body. A hole 30 is formed on the plug-in-body. A holding pocket formed by element 24 or 84 is formed on the mounting plate portion. Similar to Kessler et al., Danielson et al. provide the holding pocket that is capable of holding and storing a small article and is within or surrounded by the periphery of the mounting plate portion.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kessler et al. or Danielson et al. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the case out of transparent synthetic resin material, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

7. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kessler et al. or Danielson et al. in view of Official Notice. Official Notice is taken of the conventional use of a protrusion and recess in a top and bottom portions, respectively, of a case or container to ensure the two portions engage each other in a closed position. It would therefore be obvious in view of Official Notice to provide this type of engagement to prevent inadvertent separation.

8. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danielson in view of Krock or Kessler et al. Krock or Kessler et al. teaches an aperture on a case to allow the engagement of a strap or a ring for attachment purpose to another object. It would have been obvious to make this modification in view of Krock or Kessler et al. to attach the case to another object.

Conclusion

9. Telephone inquiries regarding the status of applications or other general questions, by persons entitled to the information, should be directed to the group clerical personnel and not to

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the examiners. In as much as the official records and applications are located in the clerical section of the examining groups, the clerical personnel can readily provide status information without contacting the examiners, M.P.E.P. 203.08. The **Group clerical receptionist number is (703) 308-1148** or the **Tech Center 3700 Customer Service Center number is (703) 306-5648**.

If in receiving this Office Action it is apparent to applicant that certain documents are missing, e.g., copies of references cited, form PTO-1449, form PTO-892, etc., requests for copies of such papers should be directed to Donna Monroe at (703) 308-2209.

For applicant's convenience, the Group Technological Center FAX number is (703) 872-9302 and for After Final Amendment the number is (703) 872-9303. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify Examiner Luong of Art Unit 3728 at the top of your cover sheet of any correspondence submitted.

Inquiries concerning the merits of the examination should be directed to Shian Luong whose telephone number is (703) 308-2039. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F from 7:00am to 4:00pm EST.

STL
October 13, 2003


Primary Examiner
Shian Luong
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